

and National Information Technology Center located in Ft. Collins, Colorado; Kansas City, Missouri; and Washington, DC. Direct ADP services are provided to the Office of the Secretary, Office of the General Counsel, Office of Communications, Office of the Chief Financial Officer, and Executive Operations.

OCIO has oversight responsibilities for the Service Center Modernization Initiative (SCMI), which is the cornerstone of the overall reorganization and modernization effort of the Department. The ultimate goal of the SCMI is to create an environment of one-stop, quality service for customers of the Farm Service Agency, the Natural Resources Conservation Service, and the Rural Development mission area agencies.

## ■ Office of the Chief Financial Officer

The Chief Financial Officer has responsibility for oversight of all financial management activities relating to USDA programs and operations. The Office of the Chief Financial Officer (OCFO) directs, manages, provides policy guidance, and coordinates financial management activities and operations. It ensures compliance throughout the Department with applicable accounting standards and principles, and ensures adequate controls over asset management, including cash management operations, real property, equipment, and inventories. Through partnerships, it provides financial management leadership and service to support quality program delivery in the Department.

OCFO is responsible for developing and maintaining an integrated departmental accounting and financial management system which provides complete, reliable, consistent, and timely financial information that is responsive to the needs of program managers. OCFO is also responsible for ensuring auditable financial statements.

OCFO operates the largest automated administrative servicing operation in the Federal Government—the National Finance Center (NFC) in New Orleans, LA. The NFC processes salary and benefit payments for nearly 450,000 Federal employees, performs administrative services for more than 100 Federal departments and agencies, and acts as recordkeeper for the Federal Government's Thrift Savings Plan (TSP). The TSP currently services an \$88 billion account for 2.5 million Federal employees and retiree members.

## ■ Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations

### Office of Congressional Relations

USDA's Office of Congressional Relations serves as the Department's primary liaison with Members of Congress and their staffs, providing information on the Department's legislative agenda, budget proposals, programs, and policies.